



JC polyomavirus infection is strongly controlled by human leucocyte antigen class II variants

Sundqvist, Emilie ; Buck, Dorothea ; Warnke, Clemens ; Albrecht, Eva ; Gieger, Christian ; Khademi, Mohsen ; Lima Bomfim, Izaura ; Fogdell-Hahn, Anna ; Link, Jenny ; Alfredsson, Lars ; Søndergaard, Helle Bach ; Hillert, Jan ; Oturai, Annette B ; Hemme, Bernhard ; Kockum, Ingrid ; Olsson, Tomas ; Martin, Roland

Abstract: JC polyomavirus (JCV) carriers with a compromised immune system, such as in HIV, or subjects on immune-modulating therapies, such as anti VLA-4 therapy may develop progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) which is a lytic infection of oligodendrocytes in the brain. Serum antibodies to JCV mark infection occur only in 50-60% of infected individuals, and high JCV-antibody titers seem to increase the risk of developing PML. We here investigated the role of human leukocyte antigen (HLA), instrumental in immune defense in JCV antibody response. Anti-JCV antibody status, as a surrogate for JCV infection, were compared to HLA class I and II alleles in 1621 Scandinavian persons with MS and 1064 population-based Swedish controls and associations were replicated in 718 German persons with MS. HLA-alleles were determined by SNP imputation, sequence specific (SSP) kits and a reverse PCR sequence-specific oligonucleotide (PCR-SSO) method. An initial GWAS screen displayed a strong HLA class II region signal. The HLA-DRB1*15 haplotype was strongly negatively associated to JCV sero-status in Scandinavian MS cases (OR = 0.42, $p = 7 \times 10^{-15}$) and controls (OR = 0.53, $p = 2 \times 10^{-5}$). In contrast, the DQB1*06:03 haplotype was positively associated with JCV sero-status, in Scandinavian MS cases (OR = 1.63, $p = 0.006$), and controls (OR = 2.69, $p = 1 \times 10^{-5}$). The German dataset confirmed these findings (OR = 0.54, $p = 1 \times 10^{-4}$ and OR = 1.58, $p = 0.03$ respectively for these haplotypes). HLA class II restricted immune responses, and hence CD4⁺ T cell immunity is pivotal for JCV infection control. Alleles within the HLA-DR1*15 haplotype are associated with a protective effect on JCV infection. Alleles within the DQB1*06:03 haplotype show an opposite association. These associations between JC virus antibody response and human leucocyte antigens supports the notion that CD4⁺ T cells are crucial in the immune defence to JCV and lays the ground for risk stratification for PML and development of therapy and prevention.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.ppat.1004084>

Posted at the Zurich Open Repository and Archive, University of Zurich

ZORA URL: <https://doi.org/10.5167/uzh-99615>

Journal Article

Published Version



The following work is licensed under a Creative Commons: Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) License.

Originally published at:

Sundqvist, Emilie; Buck, Dorothea; Warnke, Clemens; Albrecht, Eva; Gieger, Christian; Khademi, Mohsen; Lima Bomfim, Izaura; Fogdell-Hahn, Anna; Link, Jenny; Alfredsson, Lars; Søndergaard, Helle Bach; Hillert, Jan; Oturai, Annette B; Hemme, Bernhard; Kockum, Ingrid; Olsson, Tomas; Martin, Roland (2014). JC polyomavirus infection is strongly controlled by human leucocyte antigen class II variants. *PLoS Pathogens*, 10(4):e1004084.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.ppat.1004084>



JC Polyomavirus Infection Is Strongly Controlled by Human Leucocyte Antigen Class II Variants

Emilie Sundqvist¹, Dorothea Buck², Clemens Warnke³, Eva Albrecht⁴, Christian Gieger⁴, Mohsen Khademi¹, Izaura Lima Bomfim¹, Anna Fogdell-Hahn³, Jenny Link³, Lars Alfredsson⁵, Helle Bach Søndergaard⁶, Jan Hillert³, International Multiple Sclerosis Genetics Consortium¹, Annette B. Oturai⁶, Bernhard Hemme^{2,7}, Ingrid Kockum^{1,9*}, Tomas Olsson^{1,9}

1 Neuroimmunology Unit, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden, **2** Department of Neurology, Technische Universität München, Munich, Germany, **3** The Multiple Sclerosis Research Group, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden, **4** Institute of Genetic Epidemiology, Helmholtz Zentrum München - German Research Center for Environmental Health, Neuherberg, Germany, **5** Institute for Environmental Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden, **6** Danish Multiple Sclerosis Center, Department of Neurology, Copenhagen University Hospital, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark, **7** Munich Cluster for Systems Neurology (SyNergy), Munich, Germany

Abstract

JC polyomavirus (JCV) carriers with a compromised immune system, such as in HIV, or subjects on immune-modulating therapies, such as anti VLA-4 therapy may develop progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) which is a lytic infection of oligodendrocytes in the brain. Serum antibodies to JCV mark infection occur only in 50–60% of infected individuals, and high JCV-antibody titers seem to increase the risk of developing PML. We here investigated the role of human leukocyte antigen (HLA), instrumental in immune defense in JCV antibody response. Anti-JCV antibody status, as a surrogate for JCV infection, were compared to HLA class I and II alleles in 1621 Scandinavian persons with MS and 1064 population-based Swedish controls and associations were replicated in 718 German persons with MS. HLA-alleles were determined by SNP imputation, sequence specific (SSP) kits and a reverse PCR sequence-specific oligonucleotide (PCR-SSO) method. An initial GWAS screen displayed a strong HLA class II region signal. The HLA-DRB1*15 haplotype was strongly negatively associated to JCV sero-status in Scandinavian MS cases (OR=0.42, $p=7\times 10^{-15}$) and controls (OR=0.53, $p=2\times 10^{-5}$). In contrast, the DQB1*06:03 haplotype was positively associated with JCV sero-status, in Scandinavian MS cases (OR=1.63, $p=0.006$), and controls (OR=2.69, $p=1\times 10^{-5}$). The German dataset confirmed these findings (OR=0.54, $p=1\times 10^{-4}$ and OR=1.58, $p=0.03$ respectively for these haplotypes). HLA class II restricted immune responses, and hence CD4+ T cell immunity is pivotal for JCV infection control. Alleles within the HLA-DR1*15 haplotype are associated with a protective effect on JCV infection. Alleles within the DQB1*06:03 haplotype show an opposite association. These associations between JC virus antibody response and human leucocyte antigens supports the notion that CD4+ T cells are crucial in the immune defence to JCV and lays the ground for risk stratification for PML and development of therapy and prevention.

Citation: Sundqvist E, Buck D, Warnke C, Albrecht E, Gieger C, et al. (2014) JC Polyomavirus Infection Is Strongly Controlled by Human Leucocyte Antigen Class II Variants. PLoS Pathog 10(4): e1004084. doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1004084

Editor: Walter J. Atwood, Brown University, United States of America

Received: November 18, 2013; **Accepted:** March 3, 2014; **Published:** April 24, 2014

Copyright: © 2014 Sundqvist et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Funding: This study was supported by grants from the Swedish Research Council, the Knut and Alice Wallenberg foundation, the AFA foundation and the Swedish Brain Foundation and the German Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF), "German Competence Network Multiple Sclerosis" (KKNMS), Control-MS, 01GI0917), the Danish Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Danish Council for Strategic Research and the PML Consortium, LLC. The JCV serology was provided for free by BiogenIdec. The funders had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

Competing Interests: Tomas Olsson has received lecture and or advisory board honoraria from BiogenIdec, Novartis, Genzyme and Merck. The same companies have provided unrestricted MS research grants. Bernhard Hemmer has received lecture and advisory board honoraria from BiogenIdec, Novartis, Bayer, Teva, Roche, Glaxo-Smith-Kline, Chugai and Merck-Serono. BiogenIdec, Novartis, Metanomics, 5Prime, Roche, Bayer and Merck-Serono have supported the Department of Neurology of the Technische Universität München with research grants. This does not alter our adherence to all PLOS policies on sharing data and materials.

* E-mail: ingrid.kockum@ki.se

These authors contributed equally to this work.

Membership of International Multiple Sclerosis Genetics Consortium is provided in the Acknowledgments.

Introduction

Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) was first described neuropathologically during the fifties by Karl Erik Åström [1]. It took until 1971 when JC virus (JCV) was isolated from brain tissue of a patient with PML, since then JCV was accepted as the causative agent of PML [2]. PML used to be a rare demyelinating disease of the central nervous system, mainly seen in patients with lymphoproliferative disease or AIDS. Now several different drugs that interfere with immune functions, such as

natalizumab, efalizumab, mycophenolate mofetil, fumaric acid, rituximab, tacrolimus, and possibly azathioprine, cyclosporine and cyclophosphamide have been associated with an increased risk of developing PML. For natalizumab and efalizumab the strongest associations were seen in patients without an underlying disease that predispose for PML itself [3–7]. Thus, it is of major importance to develop measures to prevent or treat the condition, including understanding of factors allowing persons to acquire the virus, as carriers, a requisite for later risk for PML.

Author Summary

JC virus infection can lead to progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy in individuals with a compromised immune system, such as during HIV infections or when treated with immunosuppressive or immunomodulating therapies. Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy is a rare but potentially fatal disease characterized by progressive damage of the brain white matter at multiple locations. It is therefore of importance to understand the host genetic control of response to JC virus in order to identify patients that can be treated with immunomodulating therapies, common treatments for autoimmune diseases, without increased risk for progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy. This may also lead to development of preventative or curative anti-JC virus therapies. We here identify genetic variants being associated with JC virus antibody development; a negative association with the human leucocyte antigen *DRB1*15-DQA1*01:02-DQB1*06:02* haplotype and a positive association with the *DRB1*13-DQA1*01:03-DQB1*06:03* haplotype among controls and patients with multiple sclerosis from Scandinavia. We confirmed the associations in patients with multiple sclerosis from Germany. These associations between JC virus antibody response and human leucocyte antigens imply that CD4+ T cells are crucial in the immune defence and lay the ground for development of therapy and prevention.

In patients with multiple sclerosis (MS) treated with natalizumab previous immunosuppressive therapy, an increased duration of therapy, and the positive detection of anti-JCV IgG antibodies as surrogate for the infection with JCV have been established as risk factors for PML [8–12]. The anti-JCV antibody status in MS patients is determined by a commercial two step-ELISA. Around 40–50% of the adults are anti-JCV antibody negative [11,13–15]. The cut-off of the commercial assay have been validated in large

multicentre cohorts of MS patients with data on JC viruria available, and the false negative rate (sero-negative, but DNA excretion in urine) was estimated with around 2.5% [9–11]. In contrast, a recent study that also measured JCV excretion in urine in a comparably small study population ($n = 67$) indicated a much higher false negative rate of 37%, however, these cases displayed considerably lower JCV DNA copy numbers in the urine. Hypothetically, a vast majority of persons might be exposed to an ubiquitous virus such as JCV, proposed as contamination marker for human excretions, [16] but differ in replicative activity of a persistent asymptomatic infection, and potentially connected to this, the individual level of immune response to the virus. This view would fit with recent serological observations of a continuous anti-JCV reactivity in larger populations, [17] and might imply that actually not the true absence of the JCV infection, but rather the level of the replicative activity of the persistent JCV infection determines the individual risk of developing PML [18]. This risk might then critically depend on host genetic factors that determine the immune response to the virus, and protect from e.g. the spread of the virus from places of peripheral persistency or latency to the brain. Genes of particular interest in this respect are the HLA class I and class II genes where different variants with different peptide presenting abilities may affect the effectiveness of CD4+ and CD8+ T cell immune defence.

Our aim was therefore to test the host genetic regulation of *HLA* genes in the immune response to JCV. We used anti-JCV antibody status and anti-JCV antibody levels as surrogate for the identification of persons carrying a JCV infection in significant and clinically relevant levels and tested association to HLA class I and class II genes.

Results

Clinical characteristics and demographic data of the included patients and controls are displayed in table 1. Anti-JCV antibody status and levels were determined in the same laboratory for all individuals with an ELISA based method [9].

Table 1. Demographic information.

	<i>Scandinavian MS</i>	<i>Swedish controls</i>	<i>German MS*</i>
Total number genotyped	1621	1064	718
JCV positive (%)	955 (59)	706 (66)	406 (57)
Median JCV nOD in positive individuals	0.398	0.455	0.552
Age at sampling (mean)	39.6±10.6	41.2±11.3	39.3±10.1
% women	72	74	74
Number of individuals with <i>HLA</i> -genotypes and serostatus (JCV seropositivity)			
<i>HLA-A</i>	1599 (58.9%)	1059 (66.4%)	655 (56.2%)
<i>HLA-B</i>	1417 (59.2%)	903 (66.0%)	678 (56.0%)
<i>HLA-C</i>	1306 (59.3%)	954 (66.6%)	699 (56.4%)
<i>HLA-DRB1</i>	1551 (59.4%)	1059 (66.4%)	631 (55.6%)
<i>HLA-DQB1</i>	1452 (58.9%)	963 (66.3%)	698 (56.3%)
<i>HLA-DQA1</i>	1409 (58.6%)	908 (65.9%)	690 (56.7%)
With GWAS genotypes (JCV seropositivity)	634 (59.0%)	465 (63.2%)	718 (56.5%)

Demographic information on 1621 Scandinavian MS cases, 1064 Swedish controls and 718 German MS cases with anti-JCV antibody status, anti-JCV nOD antibody levels and *HLA*-genotypes (from either *HLA-A*, *B*, *C*, *DRB1*, *DQB1*, or *DQA1*). *Since all individuals were GWAS genotyped, they had genotype information for all *HLA*-loci, the numbers shown are the number that passed the quality score ≥ 0.70 for both alleles for imputed *HLA* genotypes.

doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1004084.t001

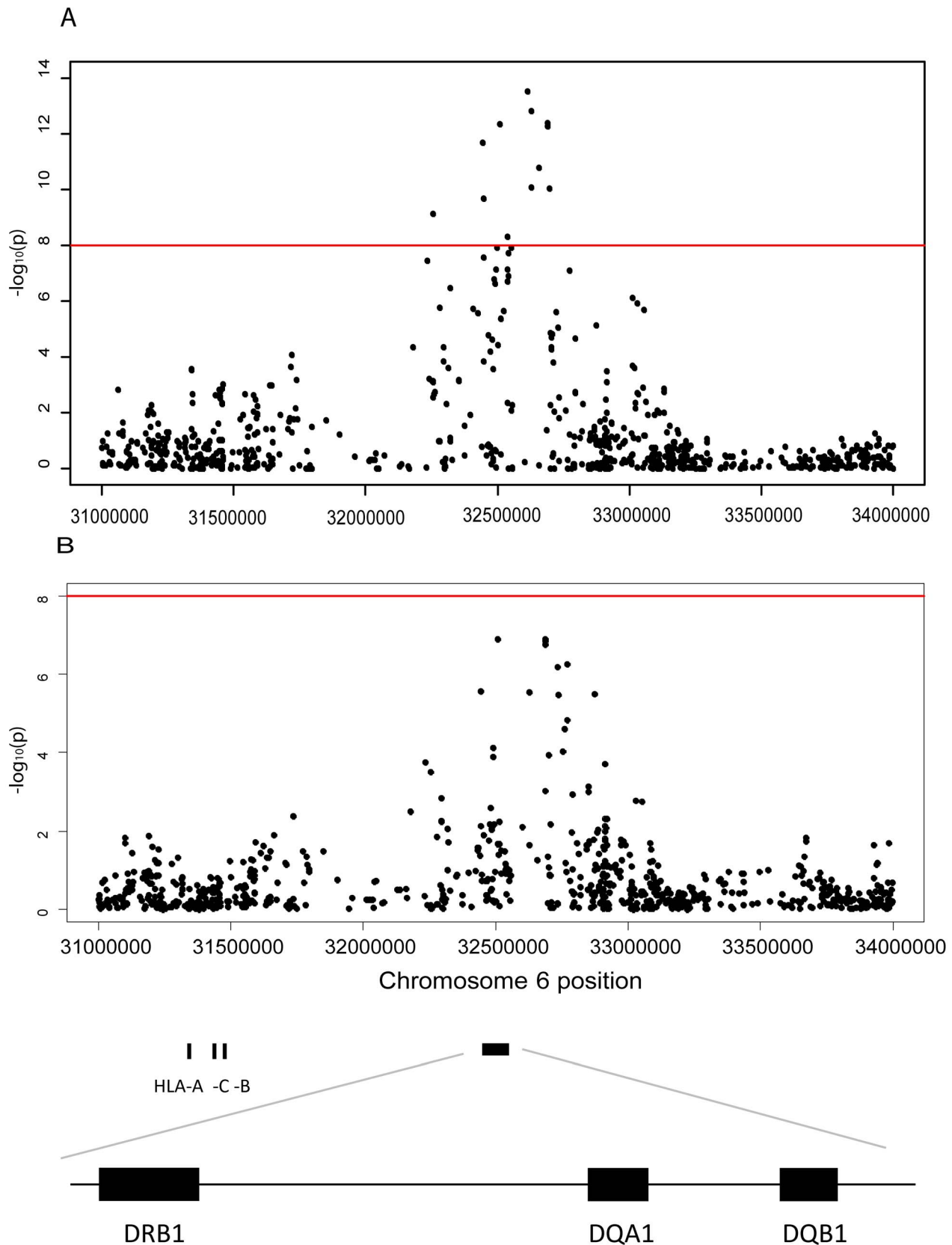


Figure 1. Association between JCA antibody response and markers in the Human Leucocyte region on chromosome 6. **A** Plot of the HLA region from the meta-analysis (random effects model) of the association between GWAS markers and JCV serostatus in the Scandinavian ($n=634$) and German ($n=718$) MS cases and the Swedish controls ($n=465$) on chromosome 6. The horizontal line represent a p-values of and 1×10^{-8} . All analyses were adjusted for gender, age at sampling, and principal components. The most significant SNP is rs34454237 ($p < 4 \times 10^{-14}$)

which maps 42.6 kb from the *HLA-DRB1* gene towards the HLA class I genes. **B** Plot of the *HLA* region from the meta-analysis (random effects model) of the association between GWAS markers and transformed anti-JCV nOD levels in the anti-JCV antibody positive Scandinavian ($n = 374$) and German ($n = 294$) MS cases and the Swedish controls ($n = 406$). The horizontal lines represent a p-value of and 1×10^{-8} . All analyses adjusted for gender, age at sampling, and principal components. The locations of the *HLA-A*, *-C*, *-B*, *-DRB1*, *-DQA1* and *-DRB1* loci are noted using genome build 36. The most significant SNP is rs3129860 ($p < 1 \times 10^{-7}$) which maps 145.7 kb from the *HLA-DRB1* gene in the direction of the *HLA* class I genes. doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1004084.g001

In this study we selected the HLA complex for scrutiny in view of its potent immune regulatory functions. We performed a meta-analysis of association of markers on chromosome 6 for both anti-JCV antibody status and normalized anti-JCV antibody levels (anti-JCV nOD) of results obtained in the three separate cohorts of individuals shown in table 1. This indicated a strong association signal in the HLA class II region for both anti-JCV antibody status and anti-JCV nOD values (figure 1). The most significant markers for the two analyses (rs34454257 for the anti-JCV antibody status and rs3129860 for anti-JCV nOD values) map 42.6 and 145.7 kb upstream of the *HLA-DRB1* gene in the direction of the HLA class I genes.

With this association signal on chromosome 6p21, it was of interest to determine the particular class II gene variants which were associated. Several HLA-alleles showed association to anti-JCV antibody status in both Scandinavian MS cases and controls (Table 2). The table is organised based on common established extended haplotypes found in the Caucasian population [19–21]. It is noteworthy that the *DRB1*15-DQA1*01:02-DQB1*06:02*-haplotype, the most strongly associated MS genetic risk factor, was found to be negatively associated with the positive detection of anti-JCV antibodies. The OR for *DRB1*15* was 0.42 in Scandinavian MS cases and 0.53 in controls. This association was replicated in German MS cases (OR for *DRB1*15* 0.54 Table 3). Other alleles in this haplotype, *DQB1*06:02* and *DQA1*01:02*, also showed strong protective associations, as expected, since they are in LD with *DRB1*15:01*. In contrast, the *DRB1*13-DQA1*01:03-DQB1*06:03*-haplotype was positively associated with anti-JCV antibody status, with an OR = 1.62 in Scandinavian MS cases, OR = 1.55 in Swedish controls (Table 2) and OR = 1.58 in German MS cases (Table 3). In addition the *DRB1*03-DQA1*05-DQB1*02* and *DQA1*05-DQB1*03:01* haplotypes showed a positive association to anti-JCV antibody status, while the *DQA1*05-DQB1*01:01*-haplotype was negatively associated with anti-JCV antibody status among controls.

The *DRB1*15-DQA1*01:02-DQB1*06:02*-haplotype also showed an association to lower anti-JCV nOD levels in a linear regression analysis among JCV seropositive individuals, with a significance level of $p \leq 0.001$ in the Scandinavian cohorts (Table 4). For *DQB1*06:02* beta was between -0.218 and -0.366 in the different cohorts (Table 4 and 5).

*DRB1*13* showed an association to higher anti JCV nOD levels among Scandinavian MS cases, $p = 0.02$, beta = 0.197, but not in German MS cases or Swedish controls (Table 4 and 5). In addition *DQB1*03:01* and *DQA1*05* showed an association to higher transformed anti-JCV nOD levels among Swedish controls (Table 4).

Most of the HLA associations to both anti-JCV antibody status and anti-JCV nOD levels remained similar when other nominally associated HLA alleles for the same gene are included in the regression analysis (Table 2 to 5).

The OR for the association of the presence of *DRB1*15* and for *DRB1*15* homozygotes for JCV antibody status did not differ, suggestive of a dominant *DRB1*15* effect (Figure 2A). Conversely, the *DRB1*13* homozygotes showed a slightly stronger association compared to presence of *DRB1*13*, although the 95%CI do overlap. *DRB1*13/15* heterozygotes were not significantly

associated with JCV seropositivity indicating that the effect of the two haplotypes counteract each other. Similar results were seen for the *DQA1* locus (Figure 2B), but here the *DQA1*01:03/05* heterozygotes are associated with an OR as high as 5.23.

Consistent with the effect on the qualitative anti-JCV status, the *DRB1*15* haplotype appeared to act dominantly also on anti-JCV nOD levels as presence of *DRB1*15* showed a similar association to *DRB1*15* homozygotes, while the *DRB1*11* haplotype had an additive effect (Table 6). The effect of these two haplotypes cancel each other out as *DRB1*11/15* heterozygotes showed no association to anti-JCV nOD levels.

We reanalysed the association of SNPs on chromosome 6 to anti-JCV antibody status and anti-JCV nOD levels when including all *HLA* alleles that remained associated in the multivariate analysis as covariates. This led to an almost complete abolishment of the association peak on chromosome 6, with the most significant remaining associations being $p = 0.0001$ for a handful of markers (data not shown). This indicates that the association we observed in the *HLA* region was almost completely explained by the *HLA* alleles listed in tables 2–4.

Discussion

We here demonstrate a host genetic HLA complex mediated influence on anti-JCV antibody status and anti-JCV antibody levels as surrogate for the susceptibility of the infection with JCV or the activity of the infection with JCV, respectively.

We report a strong negative association with anti-JCV antibody positivity, and to a lesser extent, to anti-JCV nOD levels, for the *HLA-DRB1*15-DQA1*01:02-DQB1*06:02*-haplotype in all three datasets. In contrast, the *DRB1*13-DQA1*01:03-DQB1*06:03*-haplotype is associated to increased signs of JCV carriage as assessed serologically. We further find that the *DRB1*15-DQA1*01:02-DQB1*06:02* haplotype acts dominantly, one copy being sufficient to reduce the ability to form anti-JCV antibodies while the *DRB1*13-DQA1*01:03-DQB1*06:03* haplotype acts in an additive fashion. Neither of the haplotypes dominates over the other. A recent study demonstrated considerable variation in which JCV peptides were recognized by T cells [22]. A most straight forward interpretation of the present findings is that the *DRB1*15:01* haplotype displays class II molecules that are especially able to present JCV antigens/peptides that are instrumental in activating CD4+ T cells that support the elimination or control of the virus upon exposure to the host. Hence, the opposite would be valid for the haplotype associated with increased carriage of the JCV. Thus hypothetically a large proportion of those persons being sero-negative might have encountered the virus, but had an efficient immune response following primary infection, with low viral turnover or the lack of viral persistency, and low anti-JCV IgG as consequence.

Recent serological studies support such a concept: antibody reactivity as measured by ELISA resembles a continuum from non-reactive to highly reactive in particular in persons not excreting the virus in urine [9]. This led to the introduction of a second-step confirmation test when determining the anti-JCV sero-status. However, this pattern of continuous reactivity is also seen with alternative assay formats, which suggest that a vast majority of persons have been exposed to JCV, but have a level of

Table 2. HLA-associations to anti-JCV antibody status in Scandinavian cohort.

Allele	Scandinavian MS cases				Swedish Controls			
	Frequency (JCV Ab pos/neg)	Crude p-value	OR(95% CI)	Multivariate* p-value	Frequency (JCV Ab pos/neg)	Crude p-value	OR(95% CI)	Multivariate* p-value
Haplotype DQB1*06:02-DQA1*01:02-DRB1*15-B*07-C*07-A*24								
DQB1*06:02	49.4/70.1	6 e-13	0.44(0.35–0.55)	4 e-10	22.9/36.3	2 e-6	0.48(0.36–0.65)	6 e-5
DQA1*01:02	58.4/76.6	6 e-11	0.45(0.35–0.57)	2 e-7	31.4/47.4	2 e-7	0.46(0.34–0.61)	3 e-5
DRB1*15	51.9/72.5	7 e-15	0.42(0.33–0.52)	3 e-11	24.8/36.2	2 e-5	0.53(0.40–0.71)	0.0009
B*07	39.0/46.7	0.009	0.75(0.60–0.93)	0.03	27.2/28.3	0.51	0.90	
A*24	16.6/22.2	0.007	0.70(0.55–0.91)	0.02	14.9/19.9	0.05	0.70(0.55–0.91)	0.05
Haplotype DQB1*06:03-DQA1*01:03-DRB1*13-B*44-C*7-A*02								
DQB1*06:03	13.9/8.9	0.006	1.63(1.16–2.32)	0.06	20.4/8.6	1 e-5	2.69(1.76–4.24)	3 e-4
DQA1*01:03	14.2/7.9	5 e-4	1.92(1.34–2.78)	0.008	21.4/9.7	3 e-5	2.52(1.66–3.93)	0.001
DRB1*13	23.1/15.5	5 e-4	1.62(1.24–2.13)	0.09	29.2/21.1	0.006	1.55(1.14–2.11)	0.02
Haplotype DQB1*02-DQA1*05-DRB1*03-B*08-C*07-A*1								
DQB1*02	29.2/23.4	0.02	1.36(1.07–1.74)	0.09	35.7/28.0	0.006	1.52(1.13–2.05)	0.08
DQA1*05	32.2/24.4	0.003	1.45(1.14–1.85)	0.06	38.5/30.3	0.007	1.52(1.13–2.06)	0.12
DRB1*03	22.9/18.1	0.03	1.33(1.03–1.73)	0.41	25.3/19.9	0.03	1.42(1.04–1.96)	0.07
B*08	23.7/18.6	0.02	1.37(1.05–1.79)	0.07	25.2/19.2	0.03	1.47(1.05–2.09)	0.03
A*01	32.0/26.9	0.03	1.26(1.01–1.57)	0.08	29.4/25.6	0.21	1.21	1.50(1.07–2.14)
Haplotype DQB1*05-DQA1*01:01-DRB1*01-B*07-C*07-A*24								
DQB1*05	20.6/18.5	0.52	1.09		26.6/35.7	0.003	0.64(0.48–0.86)	0.007
DQA1*01:01	20.2/16.5	0.20	1.20		25.9/33.5	0.02	0.68(0.50–0.92)	0.02
Haplotype DQB1*03:01-DQA1*05-DRB1*11-B*51-C*05-A*02								
DQB1*03:01	20.2/15.2	0.005	1.48(1.13–1.95)	0.05	27.3/24.9	0.39	1.15	
DQA1*05	32.2/24.4	0.003	1.45(1.14–1.85)	0.06	38.5/30.3	0.007	1.52(1.13–2.06)	0.12
C*05	13.8/10.1	0.04	1.45(1.04–2.03)	0.04	16.9/15.4	0.92	1.02	
B*51	10.8/9.2	0.30	1.21		11.6/6.2	0.02	2.00(1.19–3.49)	0.009

Results from the association analysis between HLA-alleles and JCV seropositivity in the Scandinavian MS cases and the Swedish controls. The frequencies in the second column are the frequencies of HLA alleles among JCV Ab seropositive and seronegative respectively. In the crude analysis each allele was analysed on its own, adjusted for gender and age. The analysis was performed in R version 2.15.1 [50]. The analysis was adjusted for age at sampling and gender. Age at sampling was divided into four categories, 18–29, 30–39, 40–49, and 50 and older, with group 40–49 as the reference. *Multivariate: all nominally significant alleles from the same gene in the same model, adjusted for age and gender.

Common extended HLA haplotypes were selected from those published in the literature for the Caucasian population [19–21]. Alternative common DRB1*15 haplotypes DQB1*06:02-DQA1*01:02-DRB1*15-B*07-C*07-A*02, DQB1*06:02-DQA1*01:02-DRB1*15-B*07-C*07-A*03, DQB1*06:02-DQA1*01:02-DRB1*15-B*51-C*7-A*03, DQB1*06:02-DQA1*01:02-DRB1*15-B*51-C*7-A*02, DQB1*06:02-DQA1*01:02-DRB1*15-B*51-C*7-A*01. The DQB1*03:01-DQA1*05-DRB1*11-B*51-C*7-A*02 haplotype exist with many different C alleles, C*05 not being the most common one.

doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1004084.t002

Table 3. HLA-associations to anti-JCV antibody status among German MS patients.

Allele	Frequency (JCV Ab pos/neg)	Crude	Multivariate*	
		p-value	OR(95% CI)	p-value
Haplotype DQB1*06:02-DQA1*01:02-DRB1*15-B*07-C*07-A*24				
DQB1*06:02	49.1/64.7	8 e-5	0.53(0.39–0.73)	4 e-4
DQA1*01:02	51.3/64.3	0.002	0.60(0.44–0.83)	0.009
DRB1*15	49.5/64.6	1 e-4	0.54(0.39–0.74)	6 e-4
B*07	51.1/59.7	0.01	0.65(0.47–0.90)	0.01
A*24	56.9/56.3	0.63	1.10	
Haplotype DQB1*06:03-DQA1*01:03-DRB1*13-B*44-C*?-A*02				
DRB1*13	63.9/54.7	0.03	1.58(1.06–2.37)	0.14
Haplotype DQB1*02-DQA1*05-DRB1*03-B*08-C*07-A*1				
DQB1*02	58.6/55.3	0.53	1.11	
DQA1*05	60.8/53.1	0.02	1.45(1.05–2.01)	0.11
DRB1*03	63.8/54.5	0.07	1.46	
B*08	59.0/55.7	0.21	1.06	
A*01	59.1/55.0	0.52	1.12	
Haplotype DQB1*05-DQA1*01:01-DRB1*01-B*07-C*07-A*24				
DQB1*05	60.8/53.1	0.52	0.89	
DQA1*01:01	54.8/56.9	0.60	0.90	
Haplotype DQB1*03:01-DQA1*05-DRB1*11-B*51-C*05-A*02				
DQB1*03:01	60.6/54.5	0.04	1.43(1.02–2.00)	0.20
DQA1*05	60.8/53.1	0.02	1.45(1.05–2.01)	0.11

Results from the association analysis between HLA-alleles and JCV seropositivity in the German MS cases. The frequencies in the second column are the frequencies of HLA alleles among JCV Ab seropositive and seronegative respectively. In the crude analysis each allele was analysed on its own, adjusted for gender and age. The analysis was performed in PLINK 1.07 [49]. The analysis was adjusted for age at sampling, significant principal components from EIGENSTRAT analysis of genomewide SNP data and gender. Age was included as a continuous covariate. *Multivariate: all nominally significant alleles from the same gene in the same model, adjusted for age and gender.

DQB1*06:03 and DQA1*01:03 were not included in the analysis because the allele frequency was below 5%.

Common extended HLA haplotypes were selected from those published in the literature for the Caucasian population [19–21]. Alternative common DRB1*15 haplotypes DQB1*06:02-DQA1*01:02-DRB1*15-B*07-C*07-A*02, DQB1*06:02-DQA1*01:02-DRB1*15-B*07-C*07-A*03, DQB1*06:02-DQA1*01:02-DQB1*15-B*51-C*?-A*02, DQB1*06:02-DQA1*01:02-DRB1*15-B*51-C*?-A*11. The DQB1*03:01-DQA1*05-DRB1*11-B*51-A*02 haplotype exist with many different C alleles, C*05 not being the most common one.

doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1004084.t003

the antibody response to JCV below the assay cut-off, possibly due to an efficient control of the virus with low viral turn-over [13,17]. This would also explain the higher false negative rate of serological studies observed in recent publications [23,24].

Although CD8+ cells, restricted by class I molecules are critical in eliminating virus infected cells, antigen specific CD4+ HLA class II restricted cells are crucial for providing T cell help through a variety of cytokines and activation of antigen presenting dendritic cells [25]. The findings may pave the way for finding epitopes in JCV critical for immune defence which could impact on vaccination strategies. Any direct clinical implications of the data, or use, for example in risk stratifications, remain to be determined.

The DRB1*13-DQA1*01:03-DQB1*06:03-haplotype shows a positive association to anti-JCV antibody serostatus, and was also to higher anti-JCV nOD levels. Hypothetically, a less effective viral immune control with higher viral turnover may be consistent with a chronically higher stimulation of the B cell arm of the immunity resulting in higher antibody levels. This might help us understand why patients that develop PLM during therapy with natalizumab had increased anti-JCV antibody levels already prior to development of PML, and why it might be rational to include the level of the anti-JCV response into PML risk stratification strategies [26].

Recent data suggests that PML-specific viral mutations are acquired intra-individually e.g. in the *VPI*-region and the regulatory region of the viral genome [27,28]. It is tempting to speculate that viral PML-specific mutations, although being a random event, are more likely to occur in persons with an inefficient control of the infection with JCV. The host genetic data presented here might therefore be a first step helping to understand how the interplay of host- and viral genetic factors might lead to the development of PML in some, but not all persons exposed to certain immunosuppressive therapies. Our study is however lacking a sufficient number of cases of PML and is therefore not designed and empowered to test this directly.

There is one previous paper studying the HLA association to PLM [29]. In this paper 123 Caucasian PML cases, the majority whom were HIV positive, were compared with a large group of HIV positive individuals. The study was limited to the association of HLA class I antigens. While *A3* was found to be nominally negatively associated with PML, *B18* was found to be positively associated. We do not find any of these alleles associated with anti-JCV antibody formation in our study. However, the *A3* association to PML possibly is explained by the same effect as the DRB1*15-DQA1*01:02-DQB1*06:02 association we see in our study, considering that *A3* can be present on the same extended

Table 4. HLA-association to transformed JCV nOD levels in Scandinavian cohort.

Allele	Scandinavian MS cases				Swedish Controls					
	Crude		Multivariate*		Crude		Multivariate*			
	Median nOD JCV Ab (pos/neg)†	p-value	beta	p-value	Median nOD JCV Ab (pos/neg)†	p-value	beta	p-value	beta	
Haplotype DQB1*06:02-DQA1*01:02-DRB1*15-B*07-C*07-A*24										
DQB1*06:02	0.357/0.453	0.001	−0.218	0.001	−0.218	0.322/0.488	8 e-5	−0.366	0.0004	−0.333
DQA1*01:02	0.360/0.476	0.001	−0.233	0.001	−0.233	0.372/0.492	0.004	−0.252	0.02	−0.149
DRB1*15	0.356/0.452	0.001	−0.238	0.006	−0.188	0.308/0.482	5 e-6	−0.399	5 e-6	−0.399
Haplotype DQB1*06:03-DQA1*01:03-DRB1*13-B*44-C*?A*02										
DRB1*13	0.495/0.363	0.02	0.197	0.08	0.139	0.459/0.450	0.24	0.098		
Haplotype DQB1*03:01-DQA1*05-DRB1*11-B*51-C*05-A*02										
DQB1*03:01	0.476/0.398	0.08	0.153		0.523/0.427	0.05	0.171	0.06		0.151
DQA1*05	0.412/0.399	0.11	0.150		0.528/0.421	0.04	0.172	0.16		0.087

Results from the linear regression analysis of the association between HLA-alleles and JCV nOD levels. Only alleles that are nominally significant ($p < 0.05$) alleles in any cohort in this or table 5 are presented. P-values that reach nominal significance, 0.05 are marked in bold. The median nOD levels are given among individuals positive or negative for respective HLA allele. In the crude analysis each allele was analysed on its own, adjusted for gender and age. Age at sampling was divided into four categories, 18–29, 30–39, 40–49, and 50 and older, with group 40–49 as the reference. The analysis was performed in R version 2.15.1 [50]. *Multivariate: all nominally significant alleles from the same gene in the same model, adjusted for age and gender. † Median nOD is given among individuals positive or negative for respective HLA allele.

Common extended HLA haplotypes were selected from those published in the literature for the Caucasian population [19–21]. Alternative common DRB1*15 haplotypes DQB1*06:02-DQA1*01:02-DRB1*15-B*07-C*07-A*02, DQB1*06:02-DQA1*01:02-DRB1*15-B*07-C*07-A*03, DQB1*06:02-DQA1*01:02-DRB1*15-B*51-C*?A*02, DQB1*06:02-DQA1*01:02-DRB1*15-B*51-C*?A*11. The DQB1*03:01-DQA1*05-DRB1*11-B*51-A*02 haplotype exist with many different C alleles, C*05 not being the most common one.

doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1004084.t004

Table 5. HLA-association to transformed JCV nOD levels in German MS patients.

Allele	Median nOD JCV Ab (pos/neg)	p-value	beta
Haplotype DQB1*06:02-DQA1*01:02-DRB1*15-B*07-C*07-A*24			
DQB1*06:02	0.480/0.598	0.007	−0.276
DQA1*01:02	0.508/0.633	0.01	−0.256
DRB1*15	0.506/0.596	0.04	−0.213
Haplotype DQB1*06:03-DQA1*01:03-DRB1*13-B*44-C*?A*02			
DRB1*13	0.471/0.572	0.18	−0.168
Haplotype DQB1*03:01-DQA1*05-DRB1*11-B*51-C*05-A*02			
DQB1*03:01	0.634/0.535	0.07	0.200
DQA1*05	0.596/0.526	0.48	0.073

Results from the linear regression analysis of the association between HLA-alleles and JCV nOD levels. Only alleles that are nominally significant ($p < 0.05$) alleles in any cohort in this or table 4 are presented. P-values that reach nominal significance, 0.05 are marked in bold. The median nOD levels are given among individuals positive or negative for respective HLA allele. Each allele was analysed on its own, adjusted for age at sampling, significant principal components from EIGENSTRAT analysis of genome-wide SNP data and gender. Age was included as a continuous covariate. The analysis was carried out in PLINK 1.07 [49]. As only alleles on the DQB1*06:02-DQA1*01:02-DRB1*15 haplotype were significant no multivariate analysis was performed. * Median nOD is given among individuals positive or negative for respective HLA allele. Common extended HLA haplotypes were selected from those published in the literature for the Caucasian population [19–21]. Alternative common DRB1*15 haplotypes DQB1*06:02-DQA1*01:02-DRB1*15-B*07-C*07-A*02, DQB1*06:02-DQA1*01:02-DRB1*15-B*07-C*07-A*03, DQB1*06:02-DQA1*01:02-DRB1*15-B*51-C*?A*02, DQB1*06:02-DQA1*01:02-DRB1*15-B*51-C*?A*11. The DQB1*03:01-DQA1*05-DRB1*11-B*51-A*02 haplotype exist with many different C alleles, C*05 not being the most common one.

doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1004084.t005

haplotype. Studies in larger cohorts of PML patients with appropriate controls testing the association of class II antigens are warranted. A recent investigation has studied the stimulation of CD4+ T cells by pools of JCV peptides among healthy donors with different HLA-DRB1 alleles [22]. For haplotypes where we see an increased OR for sero-status and positive correlation to JCV-Ab levels (DRB1*13 and DRB1*03) they observe reduced stimulation of CD4+ cells, while the opposite was true for DRB1*15. Hence, both antibody response and T-cell response to JCV infection are affected by HLA-class II antigens, which is consistent with our observations of potent HLA class II gene variant effects in large cohorts of persons.

HLA associations to some viral infections have been seen previously. The HLA class II genes were recently reported as host genetic factors influencing the IgG response to EBNA1, an Epstein Barr virus-related protein [30]. In addition, there are well documented class II allelic influences on Hepatitis C [31] and recently a highly associated SNP in the HLA region was demonstrated in relation to human papilloma virus infection [32]. HLA class II associations have also been seen in chronic hepatitis B infections as well as response to hepatitis B vaccination [33–35]. Association to the HLA class I related MICB gene have also been reported to hypovolemic shock caused by dengue viral infection and HIV viral load [36,37]. Another MIC gene, MICA has been associated to hepatitis C virus induced hepato cellular carcinoma [38]. In our data, after adjusting the association for HLA class II associated alleles the most strongly associated marker in the class I region is rs3094014 ($p < 0.02$) which is in LD with both the MICB (r^2 0.76 for rs3132468 associated with dengue fever) and MICA (r^2 0.90 for rs2596542 reported to be associated with hepatitis C virus induced hepato cellular carcinoma) using European 1000 genomes and HapMap data and may therefore represent the same signal.

Interestingly, the DRB1*15 haplotype is also the most strongly associated genetic risk factor for MS [39]. Consistent with this, the

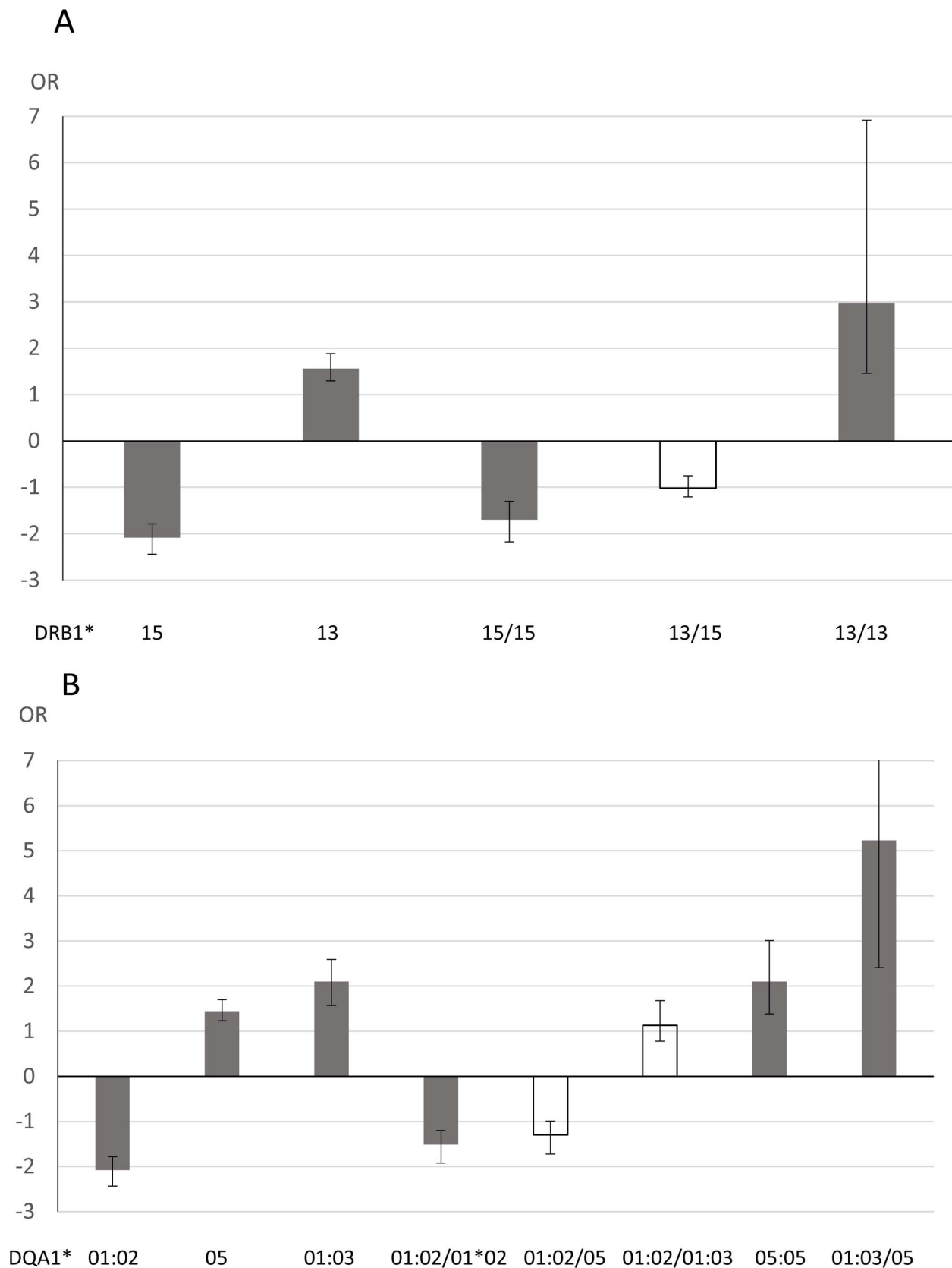


Figure 2. Analysis of association between HLA genotypes and anti-JCV antibody status in joint analysis of Swedish controls, Scandinavian and German MS patients. A Odds ratio (OR) for *DRB1* alleles and genotypes from logistic regression analyses performed in R version 2.15.1 [50]. The analyses were adjusted for gender, cohort (Swedish controls, Scandinavian MS patients or German MS patients) and age at sampling. Age at sampling was divided into four categories, 18–29, 30–39, 40–49, and 50 and older, with group 40–49 as the reference. Error bars

represents 95% confidence intervals. OR below 1 are plotted as $-1/OR$. Grey indicates associations with $p < 0.05$, white $p > 0.05$. **B** Odds ratio (OR) for *DRB1* alleles and genotypes from logistic regression analyses performed in R version 2.15.1 [50]. The analyses were adjusted for gender, cohort (Swedish controls, Scandinavian MS patients or German MS patients) and age at sampling. Age at sampling was divided into four categories, 18–29, 30–39, 40–49, and 50 and older, with group 40–49 as the reference. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals. OR below 1 are plotted as $-1/OR$. Grey indicates associations with $p < 0.05$, white $p > 0.05$. *DQA1*01:03* homozygotes are not included as this combination was so rare (0.4%). doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1004084.g002

demographic data in our study suggests that anti-JCV antibody positivity is somewhat lower among MS cases (59%), compared to controls (66%, $p = 0.02$). A protection against the establishment of a persistent JCV infection with positive detection of anti-JCV antibodies provided by the *DRB1*15* haplotype would then explain the lower sero-prevalence among cases. The presence of an association with the *DRB1*15*-haplotype in controls also indicates that the association is not likely due to an aberrant immune response to JCV infection in MS cases.

In conclusion, we here demonstrate strong associations of class II gene variants on JCV infection. Hence, CD4+ T cells, restricted by class II molecules are crucial in the host control of JCV infection. Our data is of importance for a better understanding of JCV infection and virus-host interactions, and might pave the way for new developments for an improved PML risk stratification, and preventive or curative future anti-JCV therapies.

Materials and Methods

Ethics statement

The study was approved by the regional ethical committees in each country involved; Stockholm regional Ethical Review Board (Sweden), the Ethical review boards at the Heinrich-Heine Universität Düsseldorf and the Technische Universität München (Germany) and the Danish Ethical Committee Review Board for Copenhagen and Frederiksberg (Denmark). All participants provided written informed consent.

Patients and controls

A Scandinavian dataset consisting of 2015 Swedish persons with MS from two separate studies EIMS [40] and IMSE [41] with 1259 population based controls, and 157 Danish MS patients treated with natalizumab in Copenhagen. *HLA*-genotypes and anti-JCV antibody status were available for 1621 MS cases and 1064 controls (table 1).

A German dataset of 745 MS patients, 718 with GWAS data, was used for replication. The cohort was recruited from multiple sites in Germany and included persons treated with interferon-beta for at least 6 months. GWAS genotyping for these MS cases had been performed in the same laboratory with the same chip as the Scandinavian datasets.

HLA and SNP-typing

HLA-genotypes came from three different sources. Low resolution Sequence Specific amplification (Olerup, Saltsjöbaden, Sweden) [42] were for genotyping of 2115 Swedish cases and controls for *HLA-A*, 2140 for *HLA-DRB1*, and 161 for *HLA-C*. For *HLA-B* a Luminex based reverse PCR-SSO (One Lambda, Inc., Canoga Park, CA, USA) was used for 173 persons [39]. And finally imputation either using *HLA*IMP* [43] with genotypes from the IMSGC WTCCC2 MS GWAS, [44] or with *HLA*IMP:2* [45] using genotypes from the Immunochip [46] was used. The former was used for both the Danish and German cohort while both were used in the Swedish cohort. Imputed *HLA* data was available for 1105 Swedish persons from the IMSGC WTCCC2 and for 2220 Swedish persons using Immunochip genotypes. In cases where the genotypes for any individual were

discordant between platforms, the following order of precedence was used: classical, Immunochip imputed, GWAS imputed. A quality value for allele probability of 0.7 was used as a threshold for imputed *HLA* genotypes.

In this study we used SNP genotypes from MS GWAS study to analyse association to the *HLA* region [44]. Genome-wide SNP markers were genotyped as part of the IMSGC WTCCC2 MS GWAS on the Human660-Quad chip, and genotype calling and markers were quality controlled as previously described [44].

Cases with previous intravenous IgG treatment were excluded. In the Scandinavian cohort all persons were of Scandinavian ancestry, and all MS cases fulfilled the McDonald or Poser criteria for MS. For the German MS cases, a total number of 749 cases were GWAs genotyped; 25 persons were removed as they were outliers in the principal component analysis (PCA), 4 were removed due to unsuccessful genotyping, and 2 because of natalizumab treatment at blood draw.

Anti-JCV antibody determination

JCV serology response was determined from plasma or serum using a two-step assay, [9] performed at Focus Diagnostics (Cypress, CA, USA) and sponsored by Biogen Idec (Cambridge, MA, USA). In the first step of the ELISA assay optical density (OD) were measured. Samples with $OD > 0.25$ were considered positive while samples with $OD < 0.10$ were considered negative. For samples in the intermediary interval (0.10–0.25) a second assay step was used to determine the percentage of inhibition during a pre-incubation with soluble JCV-like particles. Samples in this intermediary interval with an inhibition $> 40\%$ were considered positive while those with an inhibition $< 40\%$ were classified as negative.

The assay has been estimated to have a false negative rate for JCV carriage of 2–3%. For the quantitative analysis, normalised OD values (nOD) from the first step ELISA were transformed using rank based transformation in the GenABEL-package in R [47].

Table 6. Association of *HLA* genotypes to transformed JCV nOD levels in joint analysis of Swedish controls and Scandinavian and German MS patients.

Allele/genotype	Median nOD (pos/neg)*	p-value	beta
<i>DRB1*15</i>	0.364/0.487	4 e-9	−0.189
<i>DRB1*11</i>	0.601/0.428	0.008	0.142
<i>DRB1*11/11</i>	1.037/0.442	0.04	0.769
<i>DRB1*11/15</i>	0.504/0.442	0.94	0.007
<i>DRB1*15/15</i>	0.329/0.456	0.005	−0.181

Results from the linear regression analysis of the association between *HLA*-alleles and genotypes and JCV nOD levels. The median nOD levels are given among individuals positive or negative for respective *HLA* allele or genotype. The analyses were performed in R version 2.15.1 [50] and were adjusted for gender, cohort (Swedish controls, Scandinavian MS patients or German MS patients) and age (as a continuous covariate).

* Median nOD is given among individuals positive or negative for respective *HLA* allele or genotype.

doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1004084.t006

Statistical analysis

Association of GWAS-markers on chromosome 6 to anti-viral antibodies. To generate principal components and control for population stratification, an EIGENSTRAT analysis was performed in each cohort separately, using Eigensoft [48]. This analysis was performed after SNP-pruning with $r^2 > 0.2$ were removed using PLINK 1.07 [49]. All principal components with a p-value below 0.05 were included as covariates in the regression models. All persons considered as outliers in the PCA were removed.

Logistic regression analysis (for anti-JCV antibody status) and linear regression analysis (for transformed anti-JCV nOD-levels among JCV seropositive individuals) were performed in PLINK 1.07, adjusting for age, gender, and principal components. The threshold for Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium test was $p > 0.001$, and minor allele frequency > 0.05 . We also ran the same analysis, where we adjusted for all *HLA*-alleles associated with each outcome, with $p < 0.05$ in the final model as cut-off for inclusion.

A meta-analysis of the results from the different cohorts was performed in PLINK 1.07, using both a fixed and a random effects model.

Analysis of *HLA*-association. MS cases and controls were analysed separately. Association to anti-JCV antibodies was tested separately for alleles with a frequency higher than 5% separately. As a second step, all nominally significant alleles from the same *HLA*-gene were analysed in a multivariate regression model. Association to anti-JCV serostatus was performed with logistic regression, and association to transformed anti-JCV nOD-values was performed with linear regression, in R [50] or PLINK 1.07 [49]. We adjusted for age at sampling and gender in all analyses.

For the German dataset, it was also possible to adjust for principal components, but for the Scandinavian dataset, this was not possible since the majority of samples were not genotyped with genome wide markers.

For the analysis of effect of genotypes a joint analysis was performed including all cohorts, in this analysis covariates for age at sampling, gender and cohort were included.

Analysis of the data was carried out by Emilie Sundqvist, Eva Albrecht and Ingrid Kockum.

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank the Wellcome Trust Case Control Consortium 2 (WTCCC2) for providing genomewide genotypes and carrying out the quality control analyses. We would also like to express our gratefulness to Magdalena Lindén, Venus Azhary and Lovisa Franzén for help with *HLA*-genotyping. We would also like to thank Anna-Karin Hedström, Karin Kai-Larsen, Nina Nordin and Carolina Holmén for help with collecting patient data for the Swedish datasets. We thank John P. Carulli at Biogen Idec, Cambridge, MA, USA for interactions on host JCV genetics and Verena Grummel for technical support.

Members of the International Multiple Sclerosis Genetic Consortium (IMSGC) are: Lisa Barcellos¹, David Booth², Jacob L McCauley³, Manuel Comabella⁴, Alastair Compston⁵, Sandra D'Alfonso⁶,

Philip De Jager⁷, Bertrand Fontaine⁸, An Goris⁹, David Hafler¹⁰, Jonathan Haines¹¹, Hanne F. Harbo¹², Stephen L. Hauser¹³, Clive Hawkins¹⁴, Bernhard Hemmer¹⁵, Jan Hillert¹⁶, Adrian Ivinson¹⁷, Ingrid Kockum¹⁸, Roland Martin¹⁹, Filippo Martinelli Boneschi²⁰, Jorge Oksenberg¹³, Tomas Olsson¹⁸, Annette Oturai²¹, Nikolaos Patsopoulos⁷, Margaret Pericak-Vance²², Janna Saarela²³, Stephen Sawcer⁵, Anne Spurkland²⁴, Graeme Stewart², Frauke Zipp²⁵

1 Genetic Epidemiology and Genomics Laboratory, Division of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley, California, USA 2 Westmead Millennium Institute, University of Sydney, New South Wales 2145, Australia. 3 John P. Hussman Institute for Human Genomics and The Dr. John T Macdonald Foundation Department of Human Genetics, University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine, Miami, Florida, USA 4 Clinical Neuroimmunology Unit, Multiple Sclerosis Center of Catalonia (CEM-Cat), Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, Barcelona, Spain. 5 Department of Clinical Neurosciences, University of Cambridge, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, CB2 0QQ, UK 6 Department of Medical Sciences and Interdisciplinary Research Center of Autoimmune Diseases (IRCAD), University of Eastern Piedmont, Novara, Italy 7 Department of Neurology, Brigham & Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, MS, USA 8 Laboratory for Neuroimmunology, Section for Experimental Neurology, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Leuven, Belgium 9 INSERM UMR S 975 CRICM, UPMC, Département de Neurologie Pitié-Salpêtrière, AP-HP 75013 PARIS, France 10 Departments of Neurology and Immunobiology, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT, USA. 11 Center for Human Genetics Research, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, 519 Light Hall, Nashville, Tennessee 37232, USA. 12 Department of Neurology, Oslo University Hospital, Ullevål and University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway. 13 Department of Neurology, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, USA. 14 Keele University Medical School, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 7NY, UK. 15 Klinik für Neurologie, Klinikum rechts der Isar, Technische Universität München, München, Germany 16 MS research group, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Centre for Molecular Medicine. Karolinska Institutet, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden. 17 Harvard NeuroDiscovery Center, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, USA. 18 Neuroimmunology Unit, Center for Molecular Medicine, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden 19 Department of Neurology, University Hospital Zurich, University Zurich, Switzerland 20 Department of Neurology, Institute of Experimental Neurology (INSPE), Division of Neuroscience, San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milan, Italy. 21 Danish Multiple Sclerosis Center, University of Copenhagen and Department of Neurology, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark 22 John P. Hussman Institute for Human Genomics and The Dr. John T Macdonald Foundation Department of Human Genetics, University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine, Miami, Florida, USA 23 Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland FIMM, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland 24 Institute of Basal Medical Sciences, University of Oslo, Norway 25 Department of Neurology, University Medicine Mainz, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Mainz, Germany.

Author Contributions

Conceived and designed the experiments: JH ABO BH IK TO LA. Performed the experiments: ES DB CW HBS JL MK. Analyzed the data: ES EA IK ILB CW CG. Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: LA JH TO AFH ABO BH. Wrote the paper: ES CW TO IK.

References

- Astrom KE, Mancall EL, Richardson EP, Jr. (1958) Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy; a hitherto unrecognized complication of chronic lymphatic leukaemia and Hodgkin's disease. *Brain* 81: 93–111.
- Padgett BL, Walker DL, ZuRhein GM, Eckroade RJ, Dessel BH (1971) Cultivation of papova-like virus from human brain with progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy. *Lancet* 1: 1257–1260.
- Carson KR, Focosi D, Major EO, Petrini M, Richey EA, et al. (2009) Monoclonal antibody-associated progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy in patients treated with rituximab, natalizumab, and efalizumab: a Review from the Research on Adverse Drug Events and Reports (RADAR) Project. *Lancet Oncol* 10: 816–824.
- Ernis U, Weis J, Schulz JB (2013) PML in a patient treated with fumaric acid. *N Engl J Med* 368: 1657–1658.
- Piccinni C, Sacripanti C, Poluzzi E, De Ponti F (2013) Disproportionality signal of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy: monoclonal antibodies versus other immunosuppressants. *Pharmacoepidemiol Drug Saf* 22: 443–445.
- Schmedt N, Andersohn F, Garbe E (2012) Signals of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy for immunosuppressants: a disproportionality analysis of spontaneous reports within the US Adverse Event Reporting System (AERS). *Pharmacoepidemiol Drug Saf* 21: 1216–1220.
- van Oosten BW, Killestein J, Barkhof F, Polman CH, Wattjes MP (2013) PML in a patient treated with dimethyl fumarate from a compounding pharmacy. *N Engl J Med* 368: 1658–1659.
- Bloomgren G, Richman S, Hotermans C, Subramanyam M, Goelz S, et al. (2012) Risk of natalizumab-associated progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy. *N Engl J Med* 366: 1870–1880.

9. Gorelik L, Lerner M, Bixler S, Crossman M, Schlain B, et al. (2010) Anti-JC virus antibodies: implications for PML risk stratification. *Ann Neurol* 68: 295–303.
10. Plavina T, Berman M, Njenga M, Crossman M, Lerner M, et al. (2012) Multi-site analytical validation of an assay to detect anti-JCV antibodies in human serum and plasma. *J Clin Virol* 53: 65–71.
11. Bozic C, Richman S, Plavina T, Natarajan A, Scanlon JV, et al. (2011) Anti-John Cunningham virus antibody prevalence in multiple sclerosis patients: baseline results of STRATIFY-1. *Ann Neurol* 70: 742–750.
12. Sorensen PS, Bertolotto A, Edan G, Giovannoni G, Gold R, et al. (2012) Risk stratification for progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy in patients treated with natalizumab. *Mult Scler* 18: 143–152.
13. Warnke C, Ramanujam R, Plavina T, Bergstrom T, Goelz S, et al. (2013) Changes to anti-JCV antibody prevalence in a Swedish national MS cohort. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 84: 1199–205.
14. Trampe AK, Hemmelmann C, Stroet A, Haghighi A, Hellwig K, et al. (2012) Anti-JC virus antibodies in a large German natalizumab-treated multiple sclerosis cohort. *Neurology* 78: 1736–1742.
15. Outteryck O, Ongagna JC, Duhamel A, Zephir H, Collongues N, et al. (2012) Anti-JCV antibody prevalence in a French cohort of MS patients under natalizumab therapy. *J Neurol* 259: 2293–2298.
16. Calgua B, Barardi CR, Bofill-Mas S, Rodriguez-Manzano J, Girones R (2011) Detection and quantitation of infectious human adenoviruses and JC polyomaviruses in water by immunofluorescence assay. *J Virol Methods* 171: 1–7.
17. Warnke C, Pawlita M, Dehmelt T, Posevitz-Fejfar A, Hartung HP, et al. (2013) An assay to quantify species-specific anti-JC virus antibody levels in MS patients. *Mult Scler* 19: 1137–44.
18. Berger JR, Houff SA, Gurwell J, Vega N, Miller CS, et al. (2013) JC virus antibody status underestimates infection rates. *Ann Neurol* 74: 84–90.
19. Askar M, Daghestani J, Thomas D, Leahy N, Dunn P, et al. (2013) 16(th) IHIW: global distribution of extended HLA haplotypes. *Int J Immunogenet* 40: 31–38.
20. Bettens F, Nicoloso de Faveri G, Tiercy JM (2009) HLA-B51 and haplotypic diversity of B-Cw associations: implications for matching in unrelated hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. *Tissue Antigens* 73: 316–325.
21. Alper CA, Larsen CE, Dubey DP, Awdah ZL, Fici DA, et al. (2006) The haplotype structure of the human major histocompatibility complex. *Hum Immunol* 67: 73–84.
22. Jelcic I, Aly L, Binder TM, Bofill-Mas S, Planas R, et al. (2013) T cell epitope mapping of JC polyoma virus-encoded proteome reveals reduced T cell responses in HLA-DRB1*04:01+ donors. *J Virol* 87: 3393–3408.
23. Berger JR, Houff SA, Gurwell J, Vega N, Miller CS, et al. (2013) JC virus antibody status underestimates infection rates. *Ann Neurol* 74: 84–90.
24. Major EO, Frohman E, Douek D (2013) JC viremia in natalizumab-treated patients with multiple sclerosis. *N Engl J Med* 368: 2240–2241.
25. Whitmire JK (2011) Induction and function of virus-specific CD4+ T cell responses. *Virology* 411: 216–228.
26. Plavina T, Subramanyam M, Bloomgren G, Richman S, Pace A, et al. (2013) JCV Antibody Index Stratifies PML Risk in Natalizumab-Treated MS Patients. In: The 27th Annual Meeting of the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers. Orlando, Florida, United States. pp. Paper1642.
27. Gorelik L, Reid C, Testa M, Brickelmaier M, Bossolasco S, et al. (2011) Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) development is associated with mutations in JC virus capsid protein VP1 that change its receptor specificity. *J Infect Dis* 204: 103–114.
28. Reid CE, Li H, Sur G, Carmillo P, Bushnell S, et al. (2011) Sequencing and analysis of JC virus DNA from natalizumab-treated PML patients. *J Infect Dis* 204: 237–244.
29. Gheuens S, Fellay J, Goldstein DB, Korahnik IJ (2010) Role of human leukocyte antigen class I alleles in progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy. *J Neurovirol* 16: 41–47.
30. Rubicz R, Yolken R, Drigalenko E, Carless MA, Dyer TD, et al. (2013) A Genome-Wide Integrative Genomic Study Localizes Genetic Factors Influencing Antibodies against Epstein-Barr Virus Nuclear Antigen 1 (EBNA-1). *PLoS Genet* 9: e1003147.
31. Cangussu LO, Teixeira R, Campos EF, Rampim GF, Mingoti SA, et al. (2011) HLA class II alleles and chronic hepatitis C virus infection. *Scand J Immunol* 74: 282–287.
32. Chen D, McKay JD, Clifford G, Gaborieau V, Chabrier A, et al. (2011) Genome-wide association study of HPV seropositivity. *Hum Mol Genet* 20: 4714–4723.
33. Kamatani Y, Watanapokayakit S, Ochi H, Kawaguchi T, Takahashi A, et al. (2009) A genome-wide association study identifies variants in the HLA-DP locus associated with chronic hepatitis B in Asians. *Nat Genet* 41: 591–595.
34. Davila S, Froeling FE, Tan A, Bonnard C, Boland GJ, et al. (2010) New genetic associations detected in a host response study to hepatitis B vaccine. *Genes Immun* 11: 232–238.
35. Png E, Thalamuthu A, Ong RT, Snippe H, Boland GJ, et al. (2011) A genome-wide association study of hepatitis B vaccine response in an Indonesian population reveals multiple independent risk variants in the HLA region. *Hum Mol Genet* 20: 3893–3898.
36. Khor CC, Chau TN, Pang J, Davila S, Long HT, et al. (2011) Genome-wide association study identifies susceptibility loci for dengue shock syndrome at MICB and PLCE1. *Nat Genet* 43: 1139–1141.
37. Fellay J, Shianna KV, Ge D, Colombo S, Ledergerber B, et al. (2007) A whole-genome association study of major determinants for host control of HIV-1. *Science* 317: 944–947.
38. Kumar V, Kato N, Urabe Y, Takahashi A, Muroyama R, et al. (2011) Genome-wide association study identifies a susceptibility locus for HCV-induced hepatocellular carcinoma. *Nat Genet* 43: 455–458.
39. Link J, Kockum I, Lorentzen AR, Lie BA, Celius EG, et al. (2012) Importance of human leukocyte antigen (HLA) class I and II alleles on the risk of multiple sclerosis. *PLoS One* 7: e36779.
40. Hedstrom AK, Baarnhielm M, Olsson T, Alfredsson L (2009) Tobacco smoking, but not Swedish snuff use, increases the risk of multiple sclerosis. *Neurology* 73: 696–701.
41. Holmen C, Pichl F, Hillert J, Fogdell-Hahn A, Lundkvist M, et al. (2011) A Swedish national post-marketing surveillance study of natalizumab treatment in multiple sclerosis. *Mult Scler* 17: 708–719.
42. Olerup O, Zetterquist H (1992) HLA-DR typing by PCR amplification with sequence-specific primers (PCR-SSP) in 2 hours: an alternative to serological DR typing in clinical practice including donor-recipient matching in cadaveric transplantation. *Tissue Antigens* 39: 225–235.
43. Dilthey AT, Moutsianas L, Leslie S, McVean G (2011) HLA*IMP—an integrated framework for imputing classical HLA alleles from SNP genotypes. *Bioinformatics* 27: 968–972.
44. Sawcer S, Hellenthal G, Pirinen M, Spencer CC, Patsopoulos NA, et al. (2011) Genetic risk and a primary role for cell-mediated immune mechanisms in multiple sclerosis. *Nature* 476: 214–219.
45. Dilthey A, Leslie S, Moutsianas L, Shen J, Cox C, et al. (2013) Multi-Population Classical HLA Type Imputation. *PLoS Comput Biol* 9: e1002877.
46. Beecham AH, Patsopoulos NA, Xifara DK, Davis MF, Kempainen A, et al. (2013) Analysis of immune-related loci identifies 48 new susceptibility variants for multiple sclerosis. *Nat Genet* 45: 1353–60.
47. Aulchenko YS, Ripke S, Isaacs A, van Duijn CM (2007) GenABEL: an R library for genome-wide association analysis. *Bioinformatics* 23: 1294–1296.
48. Price AL, Patterson NJ, Plenge RM, Weinblatt ME, Shadick NA, et al. (2006) Principal components analysis corrects for stratification in genome-wide association studies. *Nat Genet* 38: 904–909.
49. Purcell S, Neale B, Todd-Brown K, Thomas L, Ferreira MA, et al. (2007) PLINK: a tool set for whole-genome association and population-based linkage analyses. *Am J Hum Genet* 81: 559–575.
50. R Development Core Team (2008) R: A Language and Environment for Statistical Computing. Vienna, Austria: R Foundation for Statistical Computing.